

# media release

*Colorado Department of Agriculture*

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

September 3, 2014

Contact: Christi Lightcap, (303) 869-9005, [Christi.Lightcap@state.co.us](mailto:Christi.Lightcap@state.co.us)

### ***Financial Assistance Available for Organic Certification***

BROOMFIELD, Colo. –The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has entered in to a cooperative agreement with the Colorado Department of Agriculture, Division of Plant Industry, to distribute cost-share reimbursements to organic producers and handlers.

In order to qualify for this year's reimbursement producers and handlers must have received certification or continuation of certification by a USDA accredited certifying agent commencing October 1, 2013 through September 30, 2014.

Under the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2013, cost share assistance payments are limited to 75 percent of an individual producer's or handler's certification costs up to a maximum of \$750.00 per category of certification. These funds will be distributed until exhausted on a first come first serve basis. The deadline for submitting application is November 15, 2014.

Applications for the reimbursements should be submitted after your certification process is complete and all fees have been paid. Proof of certification and certification fees paid must be submitted with your application.

CDA is accredited by the USDA as an organic state certifier under the National Organic Program and currently certifies approximately 200 Colorado facilities. Producers and handlers who use other certifying agencies may still qualify for this cost-share program but must contact CDA for the appropriate forms.

For copies of the cost assistance forms, visit [www.colorado.gov/ag/dpi](http://www.colorado.gov/ag/dpi) or call Barbara Rosenbach at (303) 869-9051.

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